

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol – New Orleans Sector
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NEWS RELEASE

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Border Patrol Agents Arrest Filipino Smugglers

Four citizens of Dominican Republic charged \$21,000 for trip to U.S.

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Border Patrol and Anti-Smuggling Unit Agents from the U.S. Border Patrol's New Orleans Sector arrested three Filipino nationals on Saturday, Feb. 8, for attempting to smuggle four citizens of the Dominican Republic into the United States.

The four Dominicans were smuggled on board a ship traveling from Haiti to the United States through Venice, Louisiana. The master of the ship discovered the four and notified Ben Pelot Enterprises (BPE) Security. The Coast Guard and Border Patrol were notified and responded to the vessel. Coast Guard personnel conducted a thorough safety and security inspection of the ship and assisted the Border Patrol with transportation to the vessel.

Questioning by agents revealed the four to be citizens of the Dominican Republic illegally attempting to enter the United States. Three of the individuals stated they paid \$5,000 each and the fourth stated he paid \$6,000 to be smuggled into the United States.

The three Filipino nationals were identified and charged with alien smuggling in a criminal complaint filed by the United States Attorney's Office in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"This incident demonstrates the importance of cooperation and coordination between the ship owners, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Border Patrol in stopping those who wish to enter our nation illegally, whether to work or do harm to citizens of the United States," said New Orleans Sector Chief Patrol Agent Johnny R. Back.

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